

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Page 1, after the title insert the following:**

This application is the US national phase of international application **PCT/FI2003/000599** filed **12 August 2003** which designated the U.S. and claims benefit of **FR 02/10258**, dated **13 August 2002**, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

**Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 30, which starts with "To do this," and add the following new paragraph in place thereof as follows:**

To do this, the invention proposes a biodegradable fibrous support for mulching of the soil, the support being provided with a reinforcing means in the form of a grid, characterized in that the grid is produced of a biodegradable polymer chosen from the group comprising polylactic acid, polycaprolactone, viscose, modified viscose, polyhydroxybutyrate and polyhydroxyalcanoate, by themselves or as a mixture, the grid being either maintained on the whole or part of at least one support face, or incorporated into the whole or part of the mass of the support.